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60 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CALL ON UNITED NATIONS TO REBUKE IRAN FOR ANTI-ISRAEL TIRADE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Representatives Henry A. Waxman (CA-30), Allyson Y. Schwartz (PA-13), and Rahm Emanuel (IL-05) today sent a letter urging U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to press for a strong U.N. condemnation of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's call for Israel to be 'wiped off the map' and threats to countries that recognize Israel.

The U.N. Security Council issued a press statement condemning the Iranian President's comments, but there has been no formal rebuke of Iran for its actions. The letter emphasizes the responsibility of the U.N., which has a long history of unfair treatment of Israel, to speak out in support of its existence.

"The U.N. Security Council's press statement, while welcome, did not go far enough," Rep. Waxman said. "There must be a stronger condemnation considering Iran's support for terrorist groups that attack Israel, and its determination to develop nuclear weapons and obtain long-range missiles capable of striking Israel."

"While President Ahmadinejad's dangerous rhetoric is reason enough for alarm, it is even more frightening that he and the Iranian regime have demonstrated a willingness to follow through on such statements by directly supporting terrorist groups," Rep. Schwartz added. "Iran's bellicose words and aggressive behavior must be met by a strong, united reaction from the international community."

Sixty Members of Congress signed the letter. A copy of the letter is available online at http://www.house.gov/waxman/pdfs/iran_annan.pdf.

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